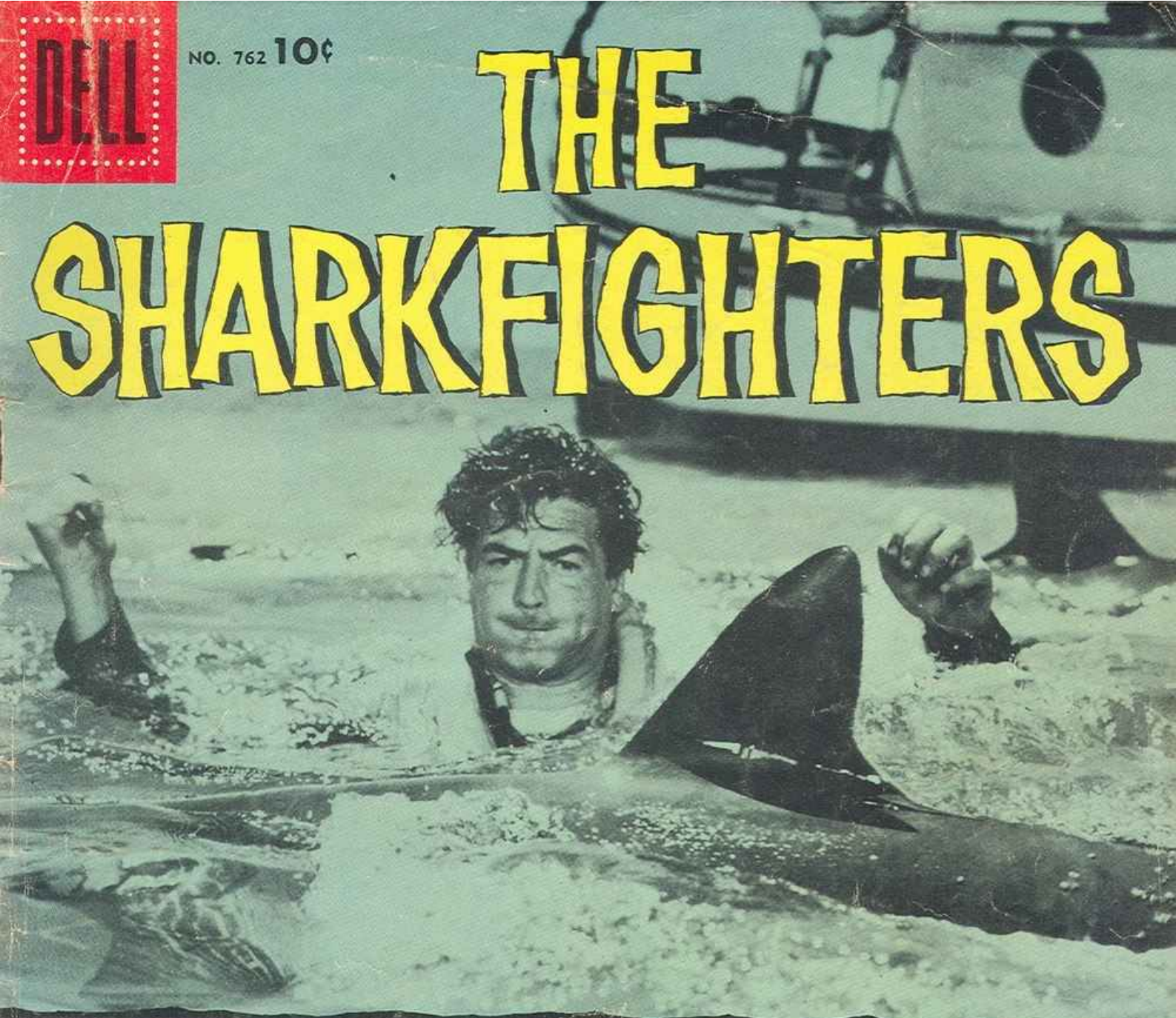
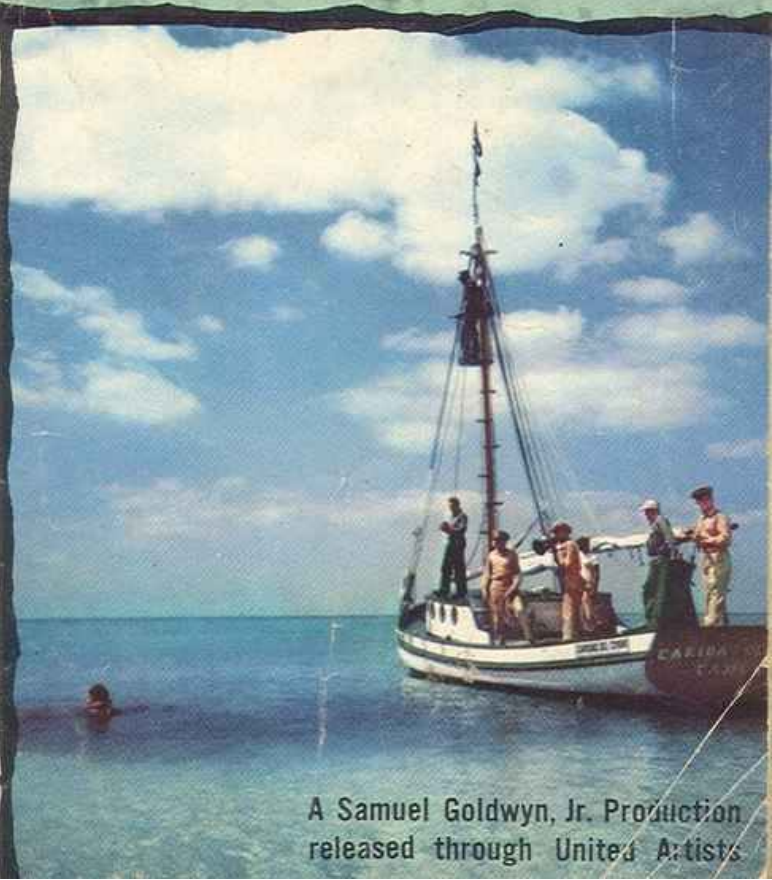
DELL

NO. 762 10¢

THE SHARKFIGHTERS





A Samuel Goldwyn, Jr. Production released through United Artists

World War II — Year, 1942 — Operation Shark Chaser has bogged down on a lonely island in the Caribbean.

Commander Ben Staves, survivor of a shark's attack, arrives to take command — but the shark-fear is in him.

On the Caridad del Cobre, Staves and members of the crew get ready to test a shark repellent.

The tests have already cost one life — now Staves must risk his own and find his courage again.

. . . And in the swirling waters near the Caridad, he comes face-to-face with his old enemy!

SAMUEL GOLDWYN, JR. PRESENTS

VICTOR MATURE

IN

THE SHARKFIGHTERS

co-starring **KAREN STEELE**

and introducing **JAMES OLSON**

with **PHILIP COOLIDGE, RAFAEL CAMPOS**
CLAUDE AKINS, GEORGE NEISE

screenplay by **LAWRENCE ROMAN AND JOHN ROBINSON**

produced by SAMUEL GOLDWYN, JR.

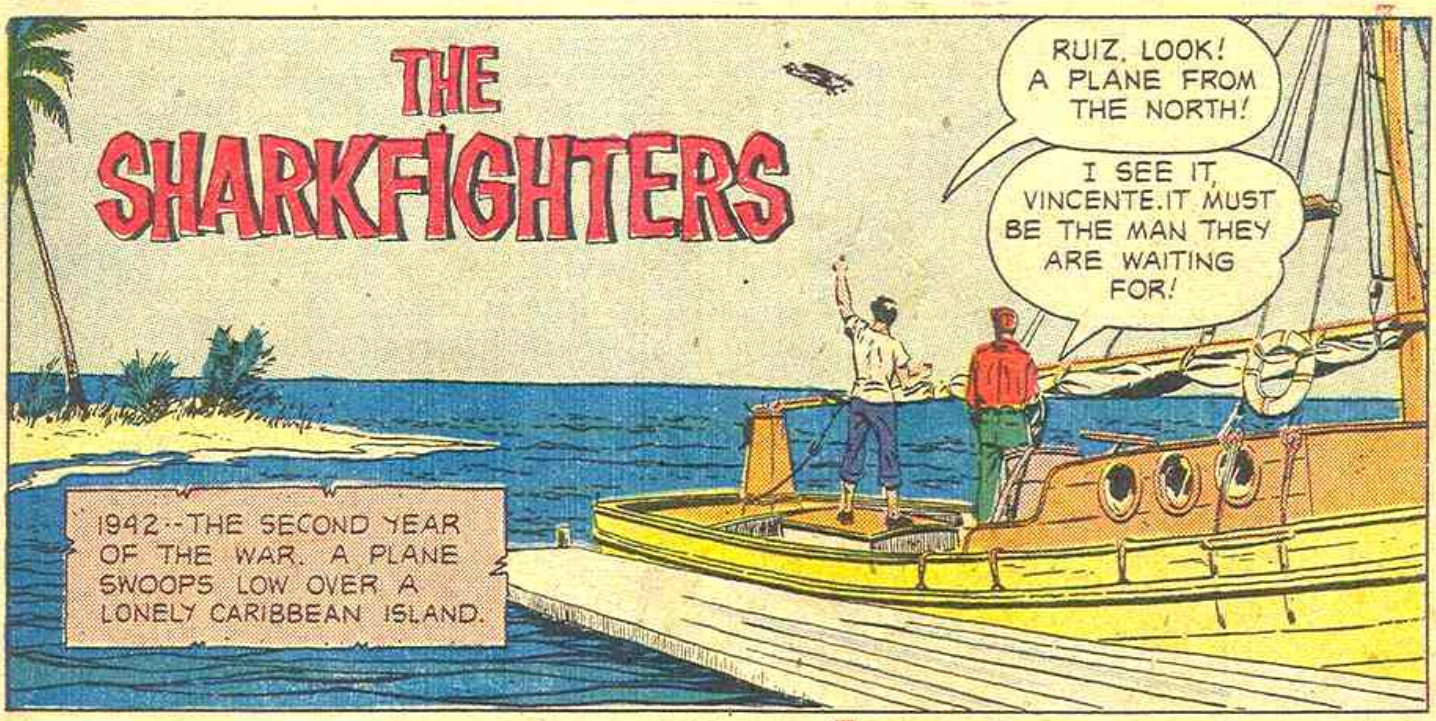
directed by **JERRY HOPPER**

Cinemascope Technicolor ®

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

THE SHARKFIGHTERS, No. 762. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Single copies, 10 cents. © 1956, by United Artists Corporation, New York City. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.

THE SHARKFIGHTERS



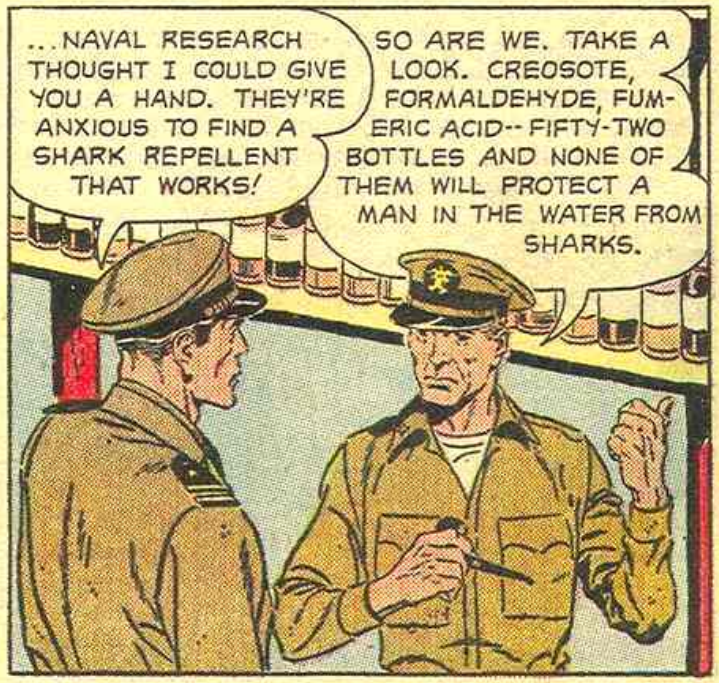
AS THE PLANE LEAVES...
EVANS? I'M BEN STAVES.
WELCOME TO TREASURE ISLAND, COMMANDER.

SAY, THIS LOOKS LIKE QUITE A PLACE.
YES. THIS ISLAND HAS THREE THINGS TO OFFER — SPRING WATER, BURIED TREASURE, AND A BAY FULL OF SHARKS WHICH WE'RE TRYING TO GET RID OF.

YES, SIR, MR. DUNCAN. THEY TELL ME THAT FELLOW STAVES IS REAL NAVY. I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM. HE WAS A DESTROYER SKIPPER. A SUB BLEW UP HIS SHIP. HE WAS IN THE WATER FOR THIRTEEN DAYS.

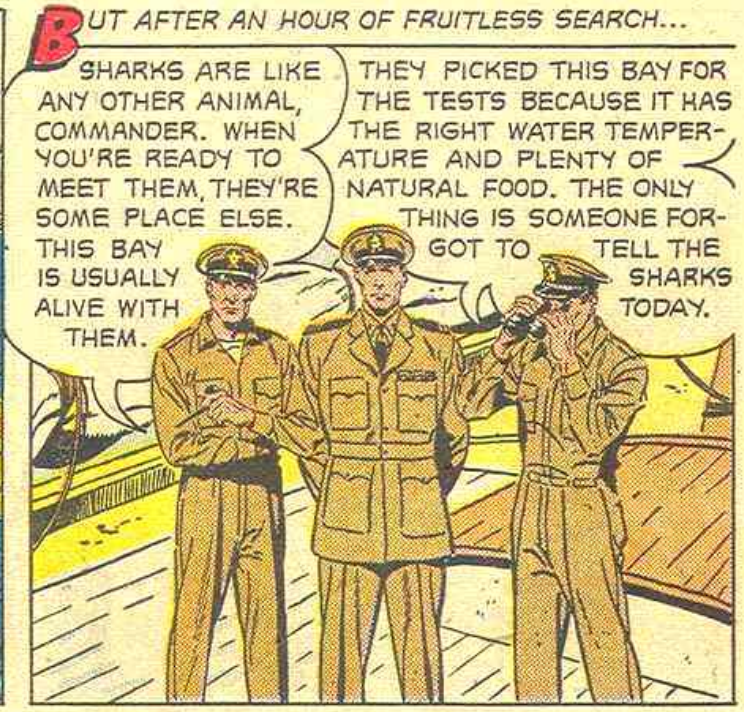
THEY STARTED OUT WITH FORTY-THREE MEN ON A RAFT. WHEN THEY WERE PICKED UP, THERE WERE ONLY TWELVE LEFT. SHARKS GOT THE REST.
SHARKS, EH? THEN I CAN SEE WHY HE'S BEEN PICKED TO COME HERE.

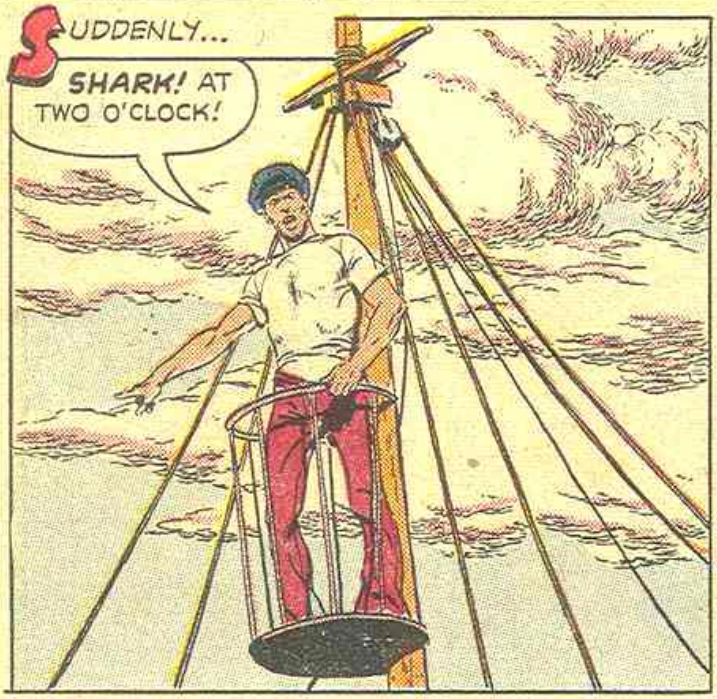
HERE YOU ARE. IT'S NOT EXACTLY A MARINE LABORATORY. BUT I'VE WORKED WITH LESS. BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE RELIEVING ME OF MY COMMAND--
HOLD IT, EVANS. IT'S NOT LIKE IT SOUNDS...

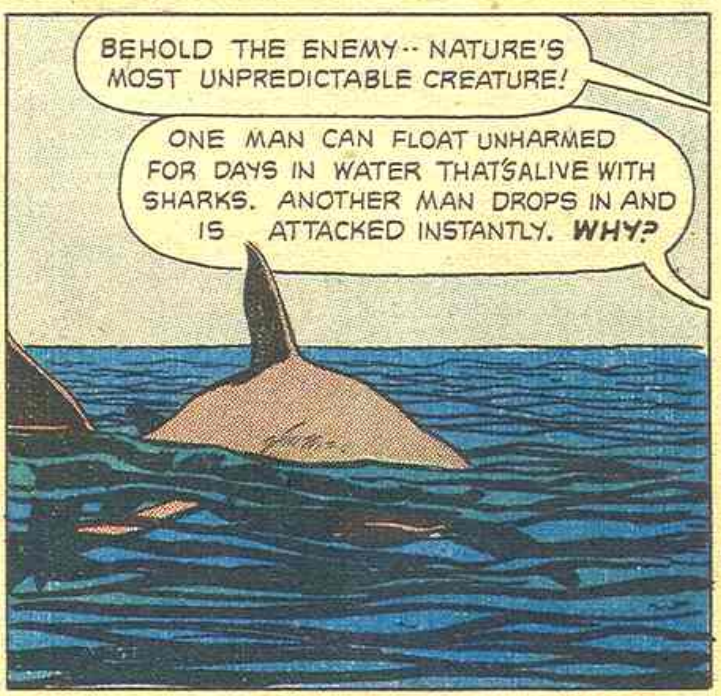

...NAVAL RESEARCH THOUGHT I COULD GIVE YOU A HAND. THEY'RE ANXIOUS TO FIND A SHARK REPELLENT THAT WORKS!
SO ARE WE. TAKE A LOOK. CREOSOTE, FORMALDEHYDE, FUMERIC ACID-- FIFTY-TWO BOTTLES AND NONE OF THEM WILL PROTECT A MAN IN THE WATER FROM SHARKS.

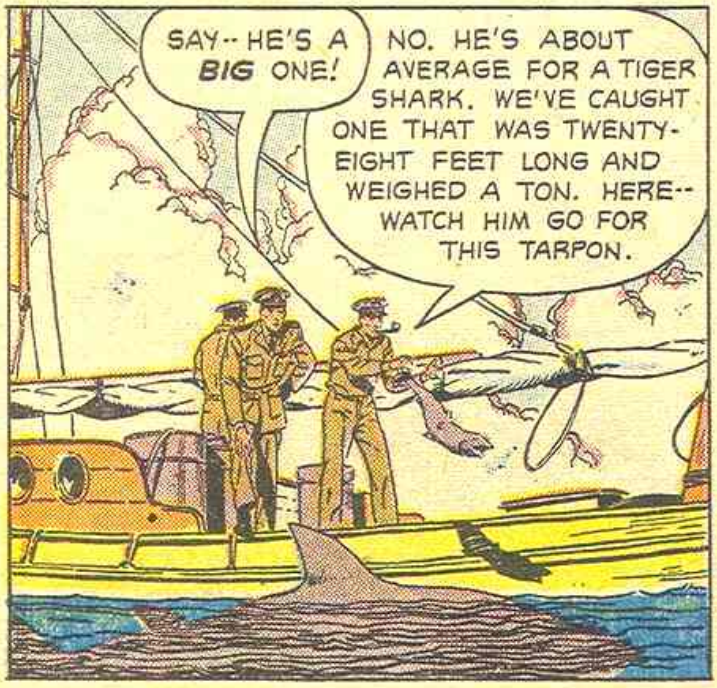
LOOK--I DON'T WANT TO TAKE OVER YOUR OPERATIONS. I CAME DOWN HERE TO SEE IF I COULD HELP, THAT'S ALL. I'D LIKE TO GET STARTED.
ALL RIGHT, COMMANDER. WE'LL START NOW. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SHARKS?
ABOUT SHARKS? VERY LITTLE, OUTSIDE OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NO TABLE MANNERS.
THEN LET'S START BY SHOWING YOU OUR SHARK COLLECTION OUT IN THE BAY.
ENSIGN DUNCAN, THIS IS COMMANDER STAVES. THE COMMANDER WOULD LIKE TO GO OUT ON THE CARIDAD. WILL YOU CHECK WITH CAPTAIN RUIZ?
YES, SIR. GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, COMMANDER.
AND THIS IS CHIEF GORDON. HE'S GOT THE GOLDEN KEY TO THIS ISLAND. ANYTHING YOU WANT, HE CAN GET FOR YOU.
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD MAN TO KNOW.
BY THE WAY, HOW'S OUR OCTOPUS, FARRAGUT, TODAY?
NOT GOOD. HE WON'T EAT ANYTHING. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD FIX UP A TONIC FOR HIS APPETITE. I'D HATE TO LOSE HIM.
A MOMENT LATER, ABOARD THE CARIDAD...
MEET OUR SKIPPER, CAPTAIN RUIZ. VINCENTE AND CARLOS ARE THE CREW. THEY'VE FORGOTTEN MORE ABOUT SHARKS THAN MOST SCIENTISTS EVER LEARNED.
GLAD TO MEET YOU. NOW LET'S GO FIND THOSE SHARKS!

DO YOU HAVE TO GO OUT VERY FAR?
MOST OF THE TIME WE CAN PICK THEM UP IN SIGHT OF THE ISLAND. WE USE THE TARPON IN THAT REFRIGERATOR AS BAIT.

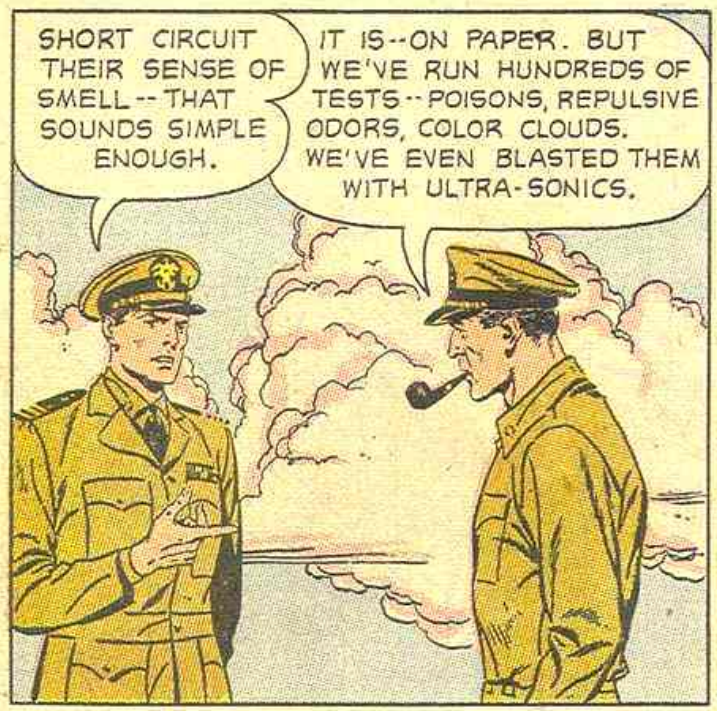

BUT AFTER AN HOUR OF FRUITLESS SEARCH...
SHARKS ARE LIKE ANY OTHER ANIMAL, COMMANDER. WHEN YOU'RE READY TO MEET THEM, THEY'RE SOME PLACE ELSE. THIS BAY IS USUALLY ALIVE WITH THEM.
THEY PICKED THIS BAY FOR THE TESTS BECAUSE IT HAS THE RIGHT WATER TEMPERATURE AND PLENTY OF NATURAL FOOD. THE ONLY THING IS SOMEONE FORGOT TO TELL THE SHARKS TODAY.


SUDDENLY...
SHARK! AT TWO O'CLOCK!


BEHOLD THE ENEMY-- NATURE'S MOST UNPREDICTABLE CREATURE!
ONE MAN CAN FLOAT UNHARMED FOR DAYS IN WATER THAT'S ALIVE WITH SHARKS. ANOTHER MAN DROPS IN AND IS ATTACKED INSTANTLY. WHY?


SAY-- HE'S A BIG ONE!
NO. HE'S ABOUT AVERAGE FOR A TIGER SHARK. WE'VE CAUGHT ONE THAT WAS TWENTY-EIGHT FEET LONG AND WEIGHED A TON. HERE-- WATCH HIM GO FOR THIS TARPON.

HE GOT IT ALL RIGHT. AND NOW HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE.
THEIR EYES ARE GOOD, BUT THEY DEPEND MORE ON THEIR SENSE OF SMELL. THAT'S OUR BEST BET. IF WE CAN JUST FIND SOMETHING THAT'LL SHORT CIRCUIT THEIR SENSE OF SMELL.


SHORT CIRCUIT THEIR SENSE OF SMELL -- THAT SOUNDS SIMPLE ENOUGH.
IT IS--ON PAPER. BUT WE'VE RUN HUNDREDS OF TESTS -- POISONS, REPULSIVE ODORS, COLOR CLOUDS. WE'VE EVEN BLASTED THEM WITH ULTRA-SONICS.

A FEW TIMES WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT. WE SENT IT TO WASHINGTON. THEY PACKAGED IT AND DELIVERED IT TO THE FORWARD AREAS. THEN WE GOT THE REPORTS -- "NO GOOD" -- AND WENT BACK TO WORK AGAIN.

EXCUSE ME, SIR. DO YOU WANT TO TRY THE COPPER ACETATE?
WHY, YES. I'D LIKE TO SEE IT.
ALL RIGHT. GO AHEAD, DUNCAN.

THAT FELLOW DUNCAN SEEMS LIKE A GOOD MAN.
LIKE ALL YOUNGSTERS, HE SEES HIMSELF ON A BATTLESHIP SAILING INTO TOKYO BAY. BUT HE'S A GOOD CHEMIST AND I WOULDN'T LET HIM GO.

AS FOR ME, I'M CONSIDERED A FAIR SCIENTIST. I EVEN RATE A HALF-INCH IN WHO'S WHO. THAT'S JUST IF YOU WERE WONDERING ABOUT ME.
I'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR YOU. YOU CAN READ MINDS.

AS THE TEST PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETED...
ALL RIGHT, VINCENTE. THROW THAT TARPON.
THIS IS THE CONTROL TEST. WE'VE GOT TO BE SURE THEY'RE HUNGRY.

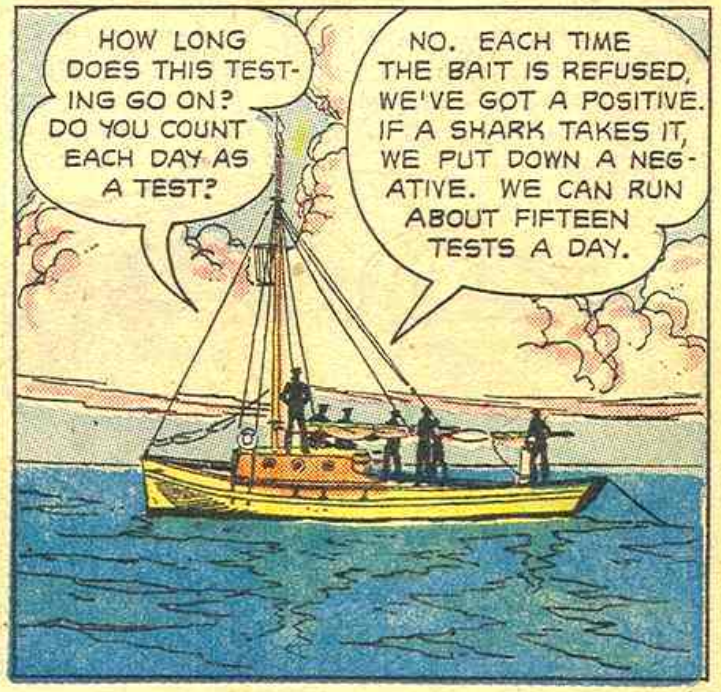
SECONDS LATER...
THEY'RE HUNGRY ALL RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT, VINCENTE, PULL IT UP.

ALL RIGHT, DUNCAN. WE'LL TRY THE COPPER ACETATE NOW.
ALL SET, SIR. OKAY, VINCENTE-- THROW IN THE NEXT TARPON.

AS THE REPELLENT SPURTS FROM THE HOSE...
THAT'S ENOUGH, CARLOS! STOP THE PUMPS!

THE SCENT OF THE BAIT DRAWS THE HUNGRY SHARKS, BUT...
HE'S TURNING! HE'S TURNING AWAY!
WAIT! HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE!

THAT SECOND ONE SHIED AWAY, TOO. THAT STUFF LOOKS PRETTY GOOD.
IT'S PROMISING. BUT, LIKE OTHER TIMES, WE COULD GET TEN GOOD TESTS AND FAIL ON THE ELEVENTH:


HOW LONG DOES THIS TESTING GO ON? DO YOU COUNT EACH DAY AS A TEST?
NO. EACH TIME THE BAIT IS REFUSED, WE'VE GOT A POSITIVE. IF A SHARK TAKES IT, WE PUT DOWN A NEGATIVE. WE CAN RUN ABOUT FIFTEEN TESTS A DAY.

JUST THEN A TIGER SHARK FLASHES TOWARD THE TARPON...

THERE! THAT'S WHAT I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. THEY'RE GOING THROUGH THE REPELLENT NOW. THEY'LL SURPRISE YOU ALL THE TIME!

RIDAD

BUT THE REPELLENT WAS WORKING BEFORE!

IT'S DISSIPATING. THE EFFECT IS GONE. THAT'S OUR PROBLEM -- TO PROTECT A MAN FOR FOUR HOURS, NOT A FEW MINUTES.

I GUESS I HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.

SO HAVE THE EXPERTS. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG FINE, COMMANDER. WE'LL TRY SOME MORE TESTS TOMORROW.

AS A TIGER SHARK SWIMS CLOSE TO THE CARIDAD, BEN STAVES SEES THE FACE OF HIS OLD ENEMY...

LOOK AT HIM GRINNING AT ME WITH THOSE TEETH. HE THINKS HE'S GOT ME LICKED -- AND HE'S DARING ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

HERE, YOU SNAGGLE-TOOTHED DEVIL. HAVE ANOTHER TARPON -- YOUR LAST!

LOOK AT HIS FACE. IT'S LIKE A MASK OF HATE.

CRACK! BANG! BANG! BANG!

THAT NIGHT ON THE ISLAND, THE MEN LISTEN TO THE LATEST WAR NEWS...
LAST NIGHT'S BOMBING OF BERLIN WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS... THREE OF OUR PLANES ARE MISSING... ONE OF OUR PURSUIT PILOTS COURAGEOUSLY ATTACKED THREE MESSERSCHMITTS AND SHOT DOWN TWO...THE THIRD ONE FLED...
OUT ON THE PORCH STEPS...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING OVER YOUR OLD REPORTS, EVANS. A COUPLE OF THOSE REPELLENTS CLEARED ALL TESTS, YET THEY FAILED UNDER SURVIVAL CONDITIONS.
THAT'S ONE OF THE BIG PROBLEMS--WHY THE REPELLENTS WORK WITH FISH AND NOT WITH MEN. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO KEEP TESTING... TESTING... TESTING...
BUT THE RESULTS DON'T PROVE ANYTHING--EXCEPT THAT YOU CAN PROTECT A FISH AND NOT A MAN.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY. WE HAVEN'T GOT A BAY FULL OF FLIERS TO EXPERIMENT WITH. WE'VE JUST GOT TO KEEP TRYING.
MEANWHILE, THE CLOCK IS RUNNING DOWN. THERE'S A WAR ON, EVANS.
STAVES, I'M AS CONCERNED WITH SAVING LIVES AS YOU ARE. MY SON-IN-LAW IS A PILOT IN THE PACIFIC. HE COULD END UP AS SHARK-BAIT HIMSELF.
OKAY... ARE YOU WORKING ON ANYTHING ELSE NOW? JUST IN CASE THIS COPPER ACETATE FAILS... A LITTLE INSURANCE...
THE BOOK IS FULL OF THINGS THAT WE HAVEN'T TESTED YET.
FOR INSTANCE, SOME FISHERMEN SAY A SHARK WON'T ATTACK AN OCTOPUS BECAUSE OF THE FLUID IT SHOOTS OUT. THAT'S SOMETHING TO LOOK INTO. THEN, THERE ARE SOME OXIDIZING AGENTS--
LOOK--I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS. WE OUGHT TO HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN THE WORKS.

THEN, AT LAST, A TWO-DAY LEAVE IN HAVANA.

THAT NIGHT AT A CAFÉ IN HAVANA...

WEEKS PASS, AND OUT AT THE ISLAND THE EXPERIMENTS GO ON. THEN, ONE AFTERNOON...

AS THE CARIDAD HEADS OUTWARD...

AT THAT MOMENT, THE ENSIGN INTERRUPTS...

SUDDENLY...

NO! THEY'VE TURNED AWAY! THE REPELLENT STOPPED THEM COLD!

IT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD, BUT WE'VE GOT TO BE SURE. WE NEED MORE TIME.
LEONARD, WE'VE ALREADY HAD TWO WEEKS OF STRAIGHT POSITIVES. YOU CAN KEEP THIS UP FOREVER! THAT'S NOT GOING TO HELP A DITCHED PILOT.

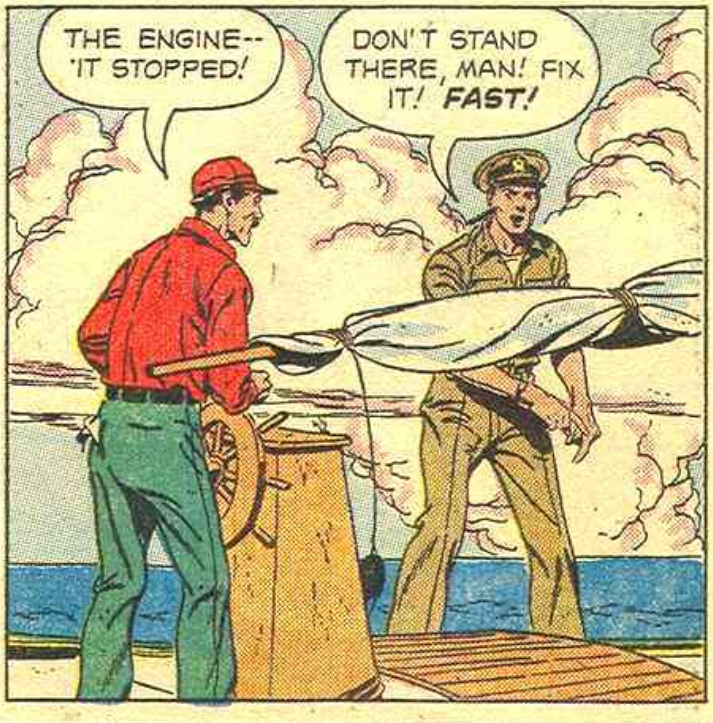
SENDING SOMETHING THAT WON'T WORK ISN'T GOING TO DO MUCH GOOD EITHER!
BUT THIS STUFF WORKS! NONE OF THE OTHERS LOOKED AS GOOD! I SAY THIS IS WHAT WE'RE AFTER! IT'S GOING UP!

BUT IT WON'T HAVE MY NAME ON IT. MY REPORT WILL SHOW IT'S YOUR IDEA!
ALL RIGHT-- IT'S MY DECISION. I'M RUNNING THINGS DOWN HERE. I DON'T LIKE TO PULL RANK, BUT YOU MAKE ANY OTHER WAY IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU, ENSIGN? I TOLD YOU THIS ONE WAS IT!
WE GOT YOU! WE GOT YOU, SEÑOR SHARK!

BUT AS THE SHIP MAKES A SHARP TURN...
HELP!
CARLOS!

REVERSE THE ENGINE! DUNCAN, STAND BY WITH THE REPELLENT! MOVE!


THE ENGINE-- IT STOPPED!
DON'T STAND THERE, MAN! FIX IT! FAST!

CARLOS, DON'T PANIC! SWIM TO THE REPELLENT!
ALL RIGHT, SEÑOR! DON'T WORRY-- I HAVE A KNIFE AT MY BELT!

THE REPELLENT WILL PROTECT HIM! IT'S GOT TO! IT'S GOT TO!
GORDON, GET THAT CAMERA GOING! I WANT THIS ALL ON FILM!
YES, SIR!

IT TURNED HIM! IT TURNED HIM AWAY! HE COULDN'T GET THROUGH!

IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
THE ENGINE! IT'S STARTED!
YES, BUT LOOK! THAT SHARK IS HEADING FOR CARLOS AGAIN!

AS THE MONSTER SLASHES IN, CARLOS DODGES THE ATTACK, AND--
HE GOT HIM! HE GOT HIM WITH HIS KNIFE! GOOD BOY, CARLOS!

THE BLOOD SCENT! IT'LL DRAW A DOZEN SHARKS IN NO TIME!
THE ROPE, CARLOS! GRAB THE ROPE!

HE'S GOT THE LINE! HAUL IT IN, WHILE THOSE OTHER SHARKS ARE BUSY WITH THE ONE HE KILLED!

FASTER ON THAT ROPE! ONE OF THEM IS COMING FOR HIM NOW!

EEEEEEYAH!
CARLOS!

I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM! HE'S STILL GOT A CHANCE IF I GET TO HIM!
BEN! NO!

AS THE SHARK CIRCLES FOR ANOTHER ATTACK...
ALL RIGHT, MEN-- MOVE FAST! GIVE 'EM A HAND ABOARD.

IT WAS CLOSE-- BUT HE MADE IT! HE MADE IT!
SNAPP!
CARIDAD

BUT THE HEROIC RESCUE WAS IN VAIN...
IT IS TOO LATE. HE IS GONE.

THE NEXT DAY, AS THE MOURNERS LEAVE THE CHURCHYARD...
A TERRIBLE THING, BEN. I CAME DOWN FROM HAVANA AS SOON AS I HEARD. I'LL BE TALKING TO WASHINGTON. THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR PLANS ARE.
I SEE, ZIMMER. YOU WANT TO TELL THEM THAT THIS WON'T HOLD UP THE WORKS?

THE INCIDENT IS EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE, BUT THIS PROJECT IS AS IMPORTANT AS EVER.
WELL, TELL THEM ANYTHING YOU LIKE. TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.

LATER, INSIDE THE LAB...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET STARTED! LET'S GO TO WORK!
ON WHAT? WE'RE FRESH OUT OF REPELLENTS, REMEMBER?

LOOK, BEN, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'M JUST NOT THE MAN FOR THIS JOB.
I SEE. AND HOW ABOUT YOU, DUNCAN? DO YOU STILL WANT YOUR TRANSFER?

SIR, IF YOU THINK THERE'S A CHANCE, I'LL STICK!
OKAY! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT WORD TRANSFER AGAIN. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

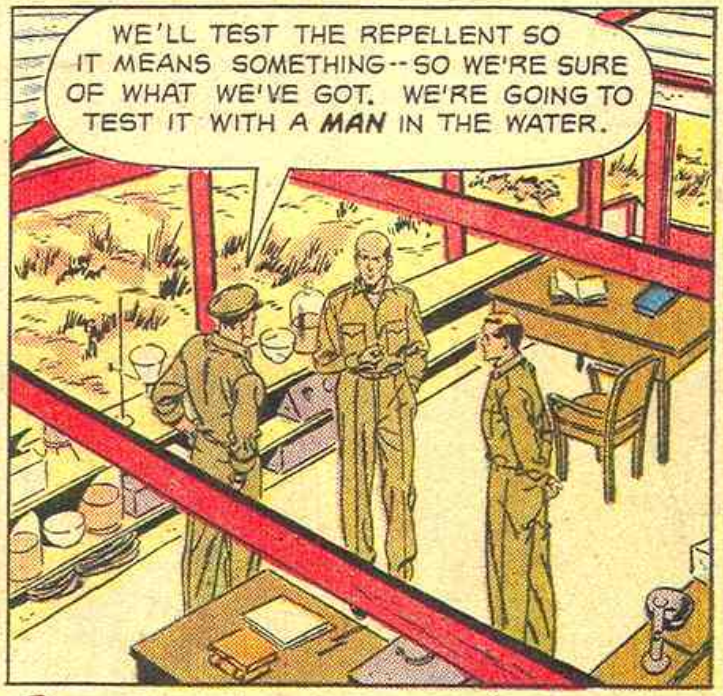
OKAY! THAT GIVES US A CLEAN DESK. NOW LET'S COME UP WITH AN IDEA. LEONARD, YOU ONCE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT OCTOPODES--
WELL, FISHERMEN SAY A SHARK WON'T ATTACK AN OCTOPUS BECAUSE THE FLUID IT EJECTS IRRITATES THE SENSE OF SMELL AND SIGHT. BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN PROVEN.

THEN WE'LL CATCH AN OCTOPUS AND RUN A TEST RIGHT AWAY. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE UP THE TIME WE LOST ON THE COPPER ACETATE.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED THAT THIS PROJECT CAN'T BE PUSHED, HAVE YOU? WELL, IT'S TIME WE STRAIGHTENED THIS OUT.

I RESENTED YOUR COMING HERE FROM THE BEGINNING. IF THE NAVY DIDN'T LIKE THE JOB I WAS DOING, THEY SHOULD HAVE PULLED ME OFF IT. BUT INSTEAD, THEY SENT ME A PAPER-BACKED HERO TO TELL ME ABOUT FISH!

YOU WERE READY TO SEND THAT STUFF TO WASHINGTON. I TOLD YOU IT WASN'T READY, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN. WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE HAD TO BURY A KID, HAVE I PROVED MY POINT?
ARE YOU FINISHED? NOW LISTEN TO ME...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE AN EXPERIMENT AND WE CAN'T HIDE FROM IT. AFTER YOU GET THROUGH WITH YOUR TESTING, AFTER YOU'VE PLAYED WITH YOUR FISH AS LONG AS YOU WANT TO, WE GO A STEP FURTHER.


WE'LL TEST THE REPELLENT SO IT MEANS SOMETHING--SO WE'RE SURE OF WHAT WE'VE GOT. WE'RE GOING TO TEST IT WITH A MAN IN THE WATER.

THE NEXT DAY, OUT ON THE BAY...
ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT ONE! COME AND GET IT!

SOON, ABOARD THE CARIDAD...
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE FARRAGUT--SAME SIZE--SAME COLOR--SAME EXPRESSION AROUND THE EYES!
THERE'S ONE DIFFERENCE, GORDY. THIS ONE IS A GIRL!

A MOMENT LATER, AS THE OCTOPUS IS OVER THE SIDE, AND...
SHARKS! THREE OF THEM -- COMING UP FAST!

AS THE OCTOPUS SENSES THE APPROACHING ENEMY, AN INKY FLUID JETS FROM ITS HIDDEN VALVE!

THEY SHIED AWAY! THEY WON'T TOUCH IT WHILE IT'S IN THAT INK CLOUD!

OKAY, VINCENTE, WE'VE SEEN ENOUGH! PULL HER IN! RUIZ-- LET'S GET BACK TO THE ISLAND. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

COMMANDER, I WAS THINKING OF WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY--ABOUT CHANGING THE TEST METHOD. I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN THE WATER. I SWAM THE HUNDRED-METER FREE STYLE BACK IN COLLEGE!
THIS ISN'T THE COLLEGE POOL, DUNC. I'LL HAVE TO THINK IT OVER.

THAT NIGHT, THE EAGER ENSIGN SPEAKS UP ONCE MORE...
AND IF I DON'T GO MORE THAN A FEW FEET FROM THE SHIP--AND IF WE HAD A COUPLE OF SHARPSHOOTERS ON DECK TO STOP A SHARK BEFORE IT GETS TO ME!
I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT, DUNCAN. I CAN KEEP YOU ON DECK IN THE FIRST PLACE!

WE'VE GOT SOME FILM READY TO RUN OFF, BEN. SOME STUFF ON THE LAST TESTS WE RAN!
THE LAST TESTS? WITH CARLOS? BUT WHY?

BECAUSE I THINK WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING THAT WAY. AFTER YOU, COMMANDER!

AS THE FILM BEGINS...
LET'S KEEP OUR EYES OPEN AND TRY TO GET SOME LEAD ON WHY IT HAPPENED.

NOW WATCH THAT SHARK. HE WON'T GO NEAR THAT REPELLENT. AT THIS POINT, THAT COPPER ACETATE WAS WORKING!

AND THIS IS WHERE CARLOS FINISHED THAT SHARK. BEN, I THINK I SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING...

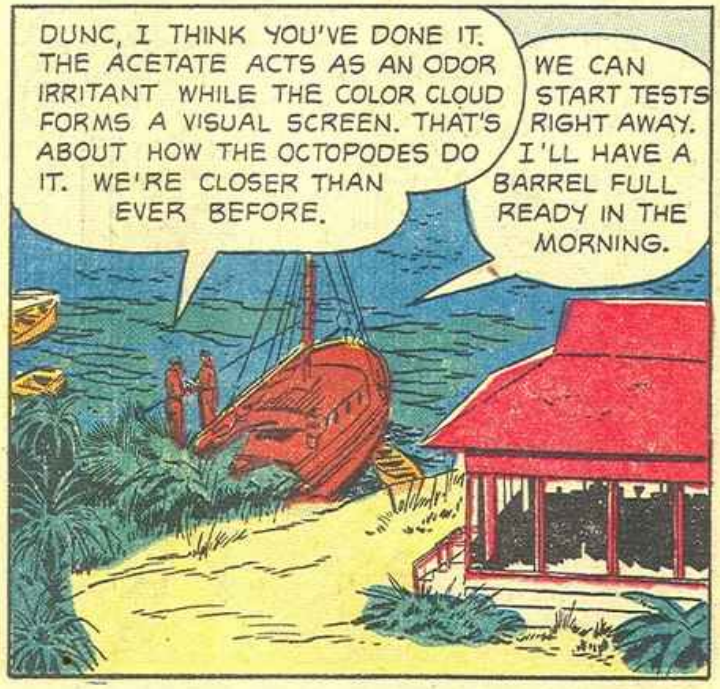
... IT WAS THAT DYING SHARK THRASHING AROUND! THE REPELLENT WAS DISSIPATING. IT WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE REST OF THEM AWAY FROM CARLOS!

I THINK THAT STUFF MIGHT HAVE HELD UP AGAINST A SINGLE SHARK!

NOW IF WE COULD HIDE THE MAN--MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE SHARKS TO SEE HIM--
I-I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!

AS THE FILM ENDS...
BEN! WAIT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO-- I DIDN'T REALIZE--

THE NEXT DAY ON THE DOCK...
AND THIS IS THE COPPER ACETATE? IT LOOKS VERY GOOD, DUNC.
I RAISED THE CONCENTRATION TO SIXTEEN PERCENT, AND RAN A DISSIPATION CHECK YESTERDAY. WE CAN KEEP IT DOWN WHERE WE WANT IT!


DUNC, I THINK YOU'VE DONE IT. THE ACETATE ACTS AS AN ODOR IRRITANT WHILE THE COLOR CLOUD FORMS A VISUAL SCREEN. THAT'S ABOUT HOW THE OCTOPODES DO IT. WE'RE CLOSER THAN EVER BEFORE.
WE CAN START TESTS RIGHT AWAY. I'LL HAVE A BARREL FULL READY IN THE MORNING.

HOW MANY TESTS ARE WE GOING TO RUN WITH THE TARPON?
STAVES AGREED TO A HUNDRED POSITIVES. I WANTED MORE, BUT--

DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING IN HIMSELF? HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY THIS LAST WEEK!
IT COULD BE, DUNC, THAT STAVES IS GETTING SCARED. IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT COULD STOP HIM!

THAT WEEKEND AT THE EMBASSY...
GLAD TO SEE YOU, STAVES. HOW ARE THINGS GOING?
EVERYTHING'S FINE, GEORGE. I JUST NEED YOU TO HELP ME GET SOMETHING--A COUPLE OF MARINE SHARPSHOOTERS WITH RIFLES.

THAT CAN BE ARRANGED. BUT MAY I ASK WHAT YOU NEED THEM FOR?
WE'VE DECIDED THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE ABOUT THE REPELLENT IS TO TEST IT WITH A MAN IN THE WATER. THE RIFLES ARE A SAFETY PRECAUTION TO COVER THE GUY IN THE WATER.

THE GUY? WHAT GUY?
ME!

THE NAVY DOESN'T LIKE RISKING HUMAN LIVES IN ITS EXPERIMENTS. I SUGGEST YOU GET NAVAL RESEARCH'S APPROVAL. I CAN'T ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY.
THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO SEND UP A REPORT. I WANT TO BE SURE I'LL HAVE THOSE SHARPSHOOTERS WHEN I NEED THEM.

VERY WELL, AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IT DOESN'T IMPLY ANY APPROVAL OF YOUR PLAN.
I UNDERSTAND, ZIMMER. OKAY--YOU'RE COVERED.

THAT AFTERNOON ON A NEARBY BEACH...

A WEEK LATER, OFF THE ISLAND...
ALL RIGHT, VINCENTE. TOSS IN THAT TARPON! DUNC, GET THAT REPELLENT HOSE READY!

ALL RIGHT, DUNC--THAT'S ENOUGH. HERE THEY COME--AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STUMBLED INTO A CONVENTION.

AT THE SCENT OF THE BAIT, THE SHARKS LUNGE TO THE ATTACK, BUT...
THEY'RE GOING FOR THAT TARPON!
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE WRONG. THEY'RE AVOIDING THAT REPELLENT ZONE. THEY WON'T COME NEAR IT!

ALL RIGHT, VINCENTE, PULL HER IN. WE'LL TRY AREA C NOW. I WANT TO SEE IF WE CAN--
NO. NEVER MIND. POINT HER HOME WE'LL SET UP FOR THE HUMAN TEST IN THE MORNING!

BUT, BEN, WE'VE ONLY HAD SEVENTY-SEVEN POSITIVES, AND YOU AGREED TO A HUNDRED TESTS!
IT'S BETTER THAN YOU'VE EVER DONE. THIS STUFF WORKS AGAINST SCHOOLS OF SHARKS AND IT DOESN'T DISSIPATE. IT'S GOT EVERYTHING WE WANT!

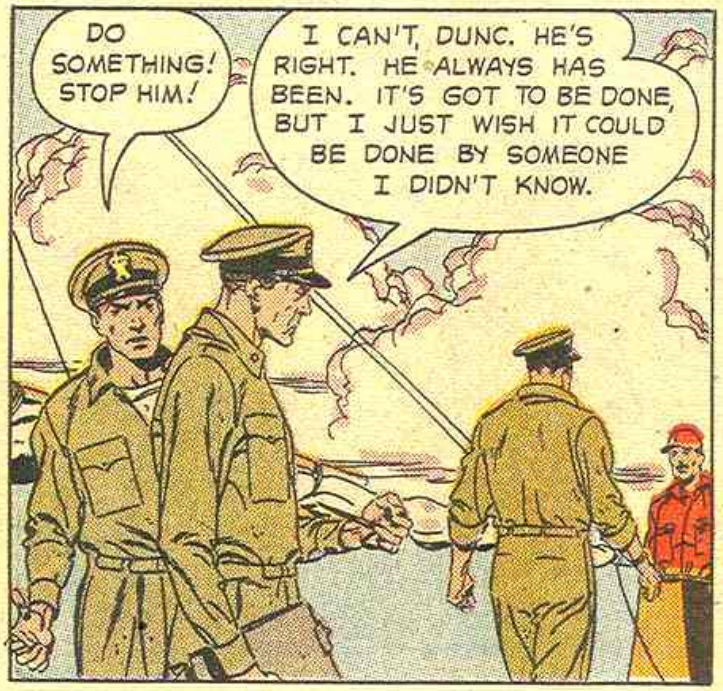
LOOK, LEONARD-- I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SURE WE'VE GOT IT, BUT YOU NEVER WILL BE UNTIL SOMEONE TAKES A SWIM!
BUT YOU AGREED TO A HUNDRED TESTS!

I KNOW, BUT I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. LOOK, I DIDN'T MAKE UP THIS KIND OF THING. YOU EXPERTS DID. YOU WORK OUT THE PROBLEMS WITH ANIMALS AND THEN YOU RUN A TEST WITH A HUMAN BEING. YOU'VE GOT TO OR YOU DON'T PROVE IT.

BEN, LET'S SEND THIS STUFF TO WASHINGTON AND TELL THEM THE STORY. THEY CAN START ON PRODUCTION WHILE WE RUN THE FINAL TESTS AND--
I WON'T WAIT THAT LONG--AND NOTHING IS GOING UP UNLESS WE'RE SURE OF IT. TOMORROW, WE RUN THE TEST.

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE. I'LL INFORM NAVAL RESEARCH. THEY'LL NEVER LET YOU GO THROUGH WITH IT.
BY THE TIME THE ORDERS COME BACK, WE'LL HAVE THE ANSWERS WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

WE LEAVE FOR HAVANA AT ONCE. HAVE THE REPELLENT PRESSED INTO A CAKE SO I CAN USE IT LIKE A DITCHED PILOT WOULD. WE MIGHT AS WELL DO THIS THING RIGHT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF, BEN!


DO SOMETHING! STOP HIM!
I CAN'T, DUNC. HE'S RIGHT. HE ALWAYS HAS BEEN. IT'S GOT TO BE DONE, BUT I JUST WISH IT COULD BE DONE BY SOMEONE I DIDN'T KNOW.

THAT EVENING IN HAVANA...
LEONARD, WHERE'D YOU DROP FROM? IS BEN WITH YOU?
HELLO, MARTHA. BEN HAD TO STOP IN TO SEE GEORGE ZIMMER AT THE EMBASSY. I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HIM HERE.

I'M GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, LEONARD. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU-- ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO ON THAT ISLAND--
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND A SHARK REPELLENT.

NO, IT'S SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT! SOMETHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH BEN. HE DOESN'T SLEEP NIGHTS. HE AVOIDS LOOKING AT ME. WHAT IS IT?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK BEN?

A NAVY WIFE DOESN'T ASK HER HUSBAND QUESTIONS. LEONARD, WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?
YES, BUT PLEASE DON'T ASK ME MORE. WAIT, I THINK BEN'S COMING!

HELLO, MARTHA. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU. DARLING, COULD YOU GET ME SOMETHING COOL TO DRINK?
OF COURSE, BEN. RIGHT AWAY.

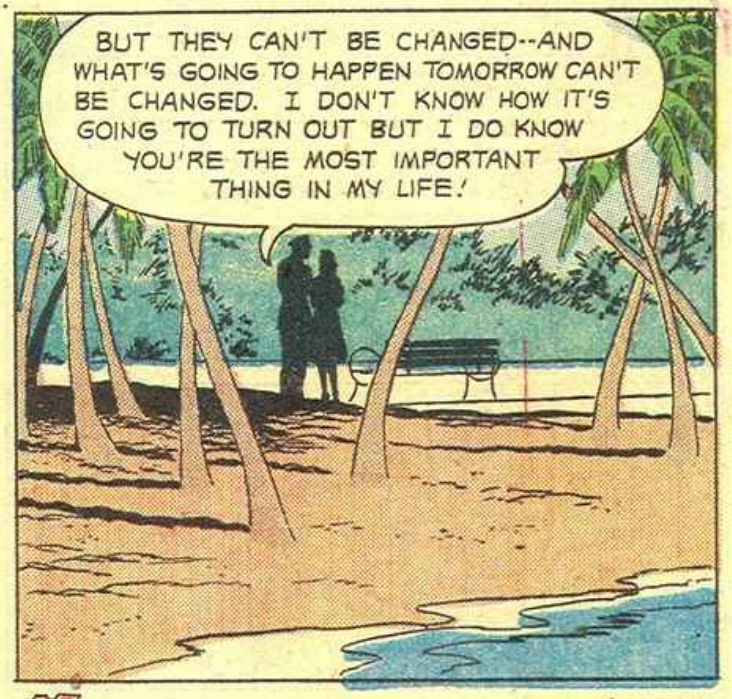
IF YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT ANYTHING, BEN, THE ANSWER IS NO--I DIDN'T TELL HER.
THANKS, LEONARD.

HERE'S THE STUFF. JUST WORK IT AROUND YOUR HANDS LIKE A CAKE OF SOAP. IT'LL SPREAD.
GOOD. THE GUNNERS ARE SET. THEY'LL GO WITH US ON THE SIX-THIRTY PLANE.

HOW ABOUT HAVING SUPPER WITH US, LEN?
SORRY. I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF. THANKS, ANYWAY.

THAT EVENING, AFTER SUPPER, IN A NEARBY PARK..
BEN, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU.
MARTHA, DON'T! WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING, DON'T SAY IT. LEONARD TALKS TOO MUCH.

LEONARD DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, I GUESSED.
MARTHA, WHAT CAN I SAY? IN MANY WAYS I'M NOT MUCH OF A HUSBAND. IF THE LAST EIGHT YEARS WERE STILL AHEAD OF US, I'D CHANGE THEM FOR YOU.


BUT THEY CAN'T BE CHANGED--AND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW CAN'T BE CHANGED. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S GOING TO TURN OUT BUT I DO KNOW YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE!

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE A HERO, BUT TO BE THE GUY WHO DESERVES YOU. I'VE GOT TO GO TOMORROW. ONE THING I'LL PROMISE YOU--NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM COMING HOME TOMORROW NIGHT.

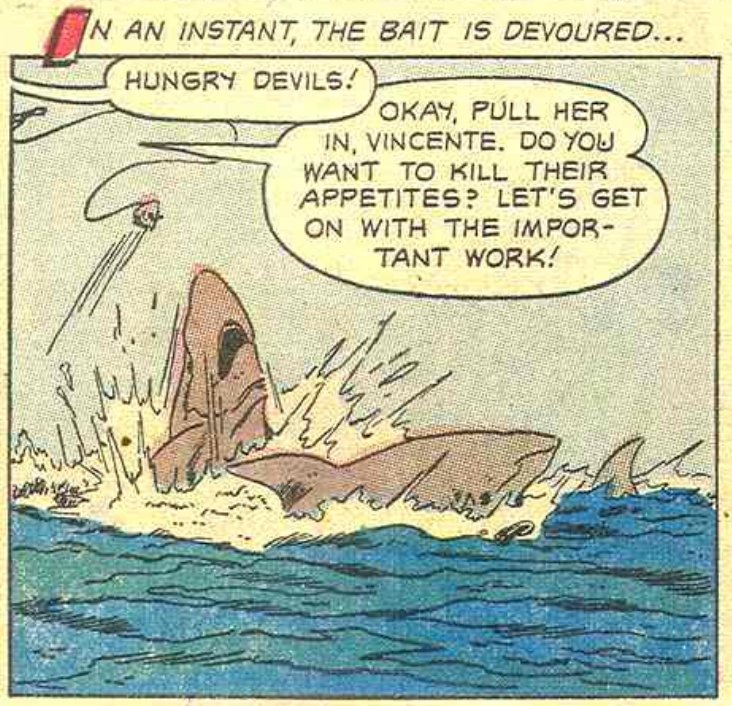
NEXT MORNING ON THE ISLAND...
ALL RIGHT, BEN-- WE'RE SET. THE SHARPSHOOTERS ARE HERE!
GOOD! LET'S GO!

AS THE CARIDAD HEADS OUT INTO THE BAY...
HEY, BUDDY, WHERE ARE WE GOING WITH THIS TUB?
HSST! I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW-- BUT WE GOT WORD HITLER'S GONNA MEET TOJO ON AN ISLAND NOT FAR FROM HERE.

AND US MARINES ARE GONNA CAPTURE THEM, HUH?
NAW! THEY NEED TWO MORE HANDS FOR A PINOCHLE GAME!

SECONDS LATER, THE CREW IS ALERTED...
SHARK! FOUR O'CLOCK!
OUT THERE! THERE ARE THREE OF THEM!

CONTROL TEST! GORDON, GET THAT CAMERA READY! VINCENTE, TOSS THAT TARPON OVER THE SIDE!
AYE, AYE, SIR!
YES, SIR!


IN AN INSTANT, THE BAIT IS DEVOURED...
HUNGRY DEVILS!
OKAY, PULL HER IN, VINCENTE. DO YOU WANT TO KILL THEIR APPETITES? LET'S GET ON WITH THE IMPORTANT WORK!

WE WON'T NEED THAT LIQUID REPELLENT. I'M USING THE COMPRESSED CAKE.
THIS IS JUST IN CASE. IT WON'T HURT TO BE PREPARED.

BEN, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND!
DON'T START ANYTHING! IT'S ALL SETTLED. GET OVER THERE AND CHECK THE LOUDSPEAKER!

TESTING-- ONE, TWO, THREE--
HEY, IS HE GOING INTO THAT WATER WITH ALL THEM SHARKS?
MAN, NOTHING IN THE WORLD COULD MAKE ME DO THAT. NOT EVEN MY SERGEANT.

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE SET. POWERS, TAKE THE ROOF OF THE WHEELHOUSE. RALSTON, TAKE THE CROW'S-NEST. REMEMBER, DON'T FIRE UNLESS A SHARK ENTERS THE REPELLENT AREA.
YES, SIR!
O.K., SIR!

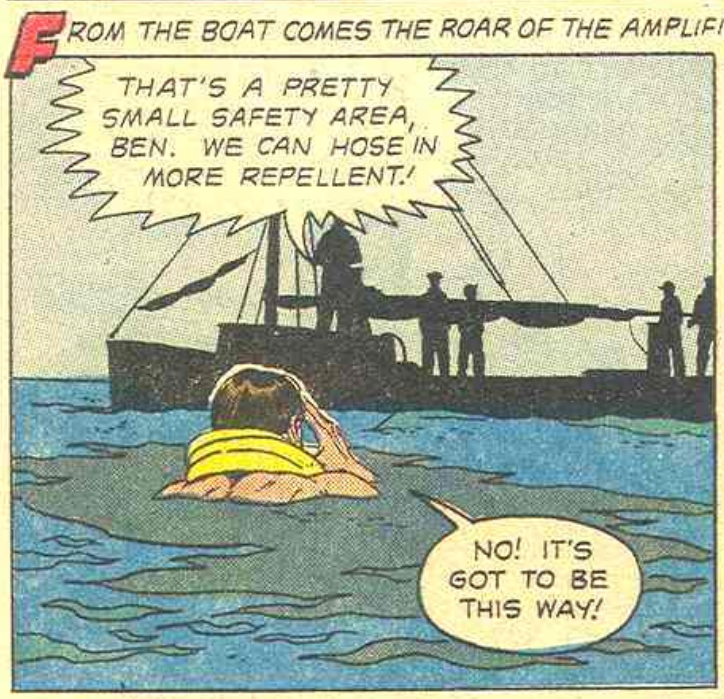
BEN, IF YOU WANT TO COME OUT, DON'T BE ASHAMED TO YELL.
DON'T WORRY. IF I WANT TO COME OUT, YOU'LL KNOW ABOUT IT.

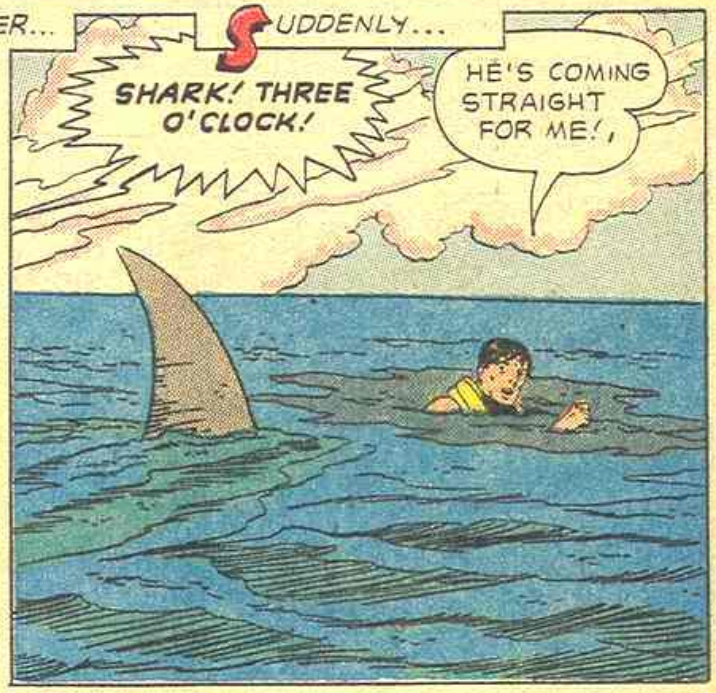
PLEASE, COMMANDER-- LET ME DO IT!
DUNCAN, YOUR TRANSFER IS ON MY DESK. I'LL SIGN IT WHEN I GET BACK. I RECOMMENDED YOU FOR DESTROYER DUTY. OKAY WITH YOU?

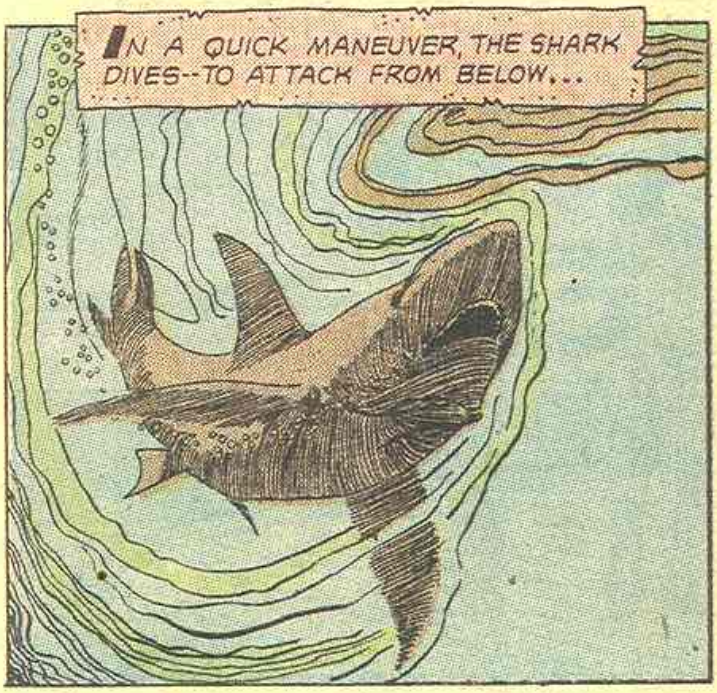
PLEASE, SIR! LET ME GO IN! IT'LL ONLY TAKE ME A MINUTE TO GET READY.
YOU'RE YOUNG. IT TOOK ME A LOT LONGER TO GET READY FOR THIS!

GOOD LUCK, BEN!
WELL, HERE GOES!

I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST! LET'S SEE-- I'VE GOT TO WORK THIS CAKE OF DYE WITH MY FINGERS. THAT'LL SPREAD THE REPELLENT AROUND ME.


FROM THE BOAT COMES THE ROAR OF THE AMPLIFIER...
THAT'S A PRETTY SMALL SAFETY AREA, BEN. WE CAN HOSE IN MORE REPELLENT!
NO! IT'S GOT TO BE THIS WAY!


SUDDENLY...
SHARK! THREE O'CLOCK!
HE'S COMING STRAIGHT FOR ME!


IN A QUICK MANEUVER, THE SHARK DIVES--TO ATTACK FROM BELOW...

THEN IN THE NEXT TENSE MOMENT...
HE'S GONE, BEN! HE COULDN'T GET THROUGH THE REPELLENT.
THAT WAS CLOSE.

THEN, IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
WATCH IT, BEN! TWO MORE AT NINE O'CLOCK!

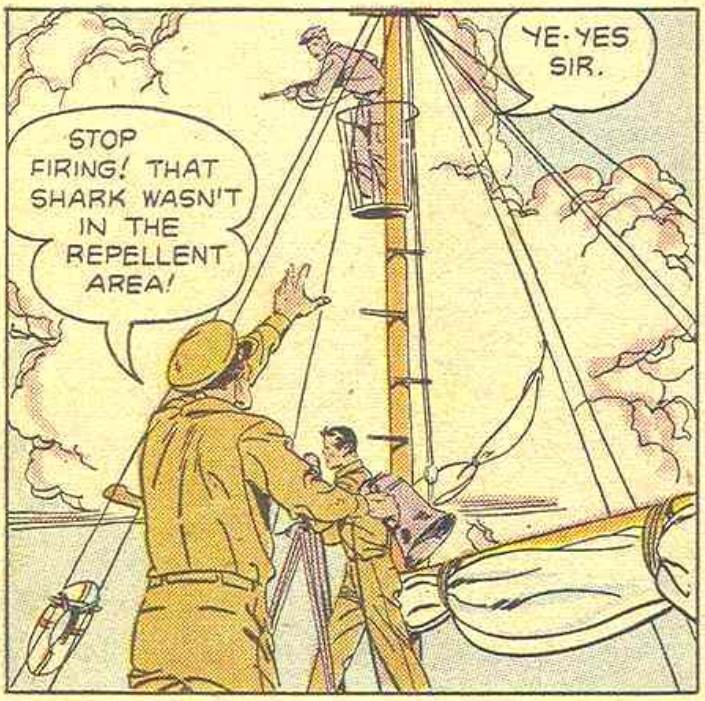
THAT WAS CLOSE!

IT STOPPED THEM! THE REPELLENT STOPPED THEM COLD!
OKAY, GET HIM IN! WE'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

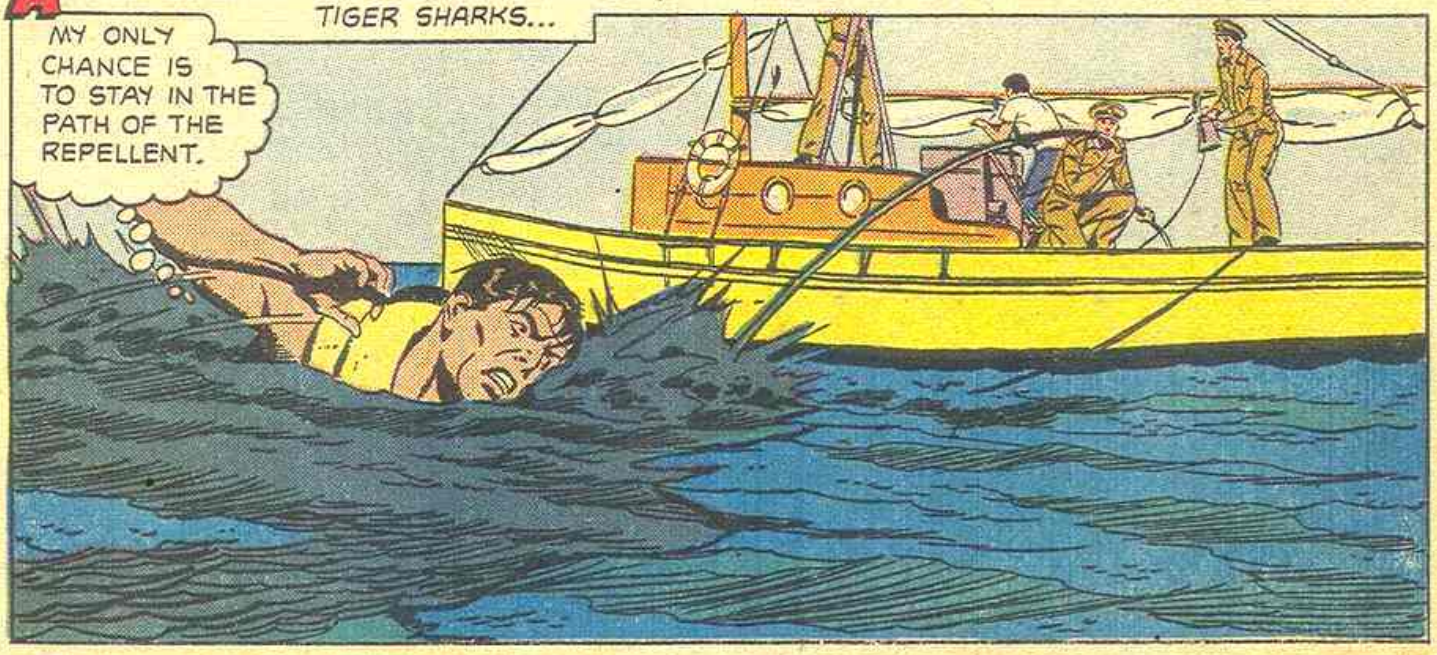
NO, WAIT! MORE SHARKS! A PACK OF THEM AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!

IT WORKS! IT WORKS! THEY CAN'T BREAK INTO THAT COLOR POOL!

BUT TENSION HAS BEEN MOUNTING ON THE CORIDAD, AND NOW, IN THE CROW'S-NEST...
THAT SHARK! HE'S CUTTING INTO THE COLOR POOL! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!
BANG!
BANG!

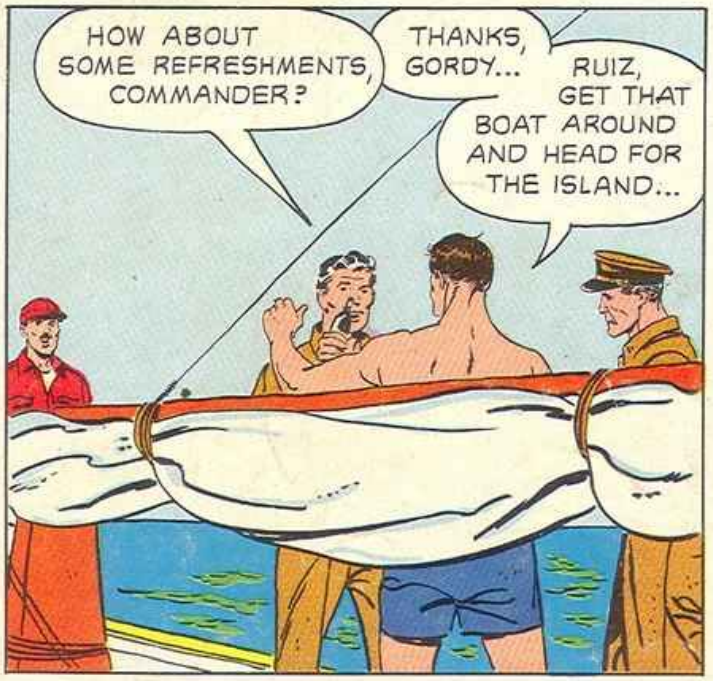


AS THE REPELLENT JETS OUT INTO THE BAY, THE WATER IS ALIVE WITH HUNGER-MADDENED TIGER SHARKS...



SUDDENLY ONE OF THE KILLERS LUNGES TOWARD A NEW TARGET...
HE'S GOT THE CORK FLOAT ON THAT LIFE-LINE! HE'S PULLING ME OUT OF THE REPELLENT!
GOT TO MOVE FAST... GOT TO CUT THAT LINE!
HE'S COMING FOR ME!
THAT SHARK! BEN'S TRYING TO FINISH HIM WITH HIS KNIFE!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING FAST! THE BLOOD SCENT IS DRAWING EVERY SHARK IN THE BAY!
THEN IN A DESPERATE MOMENT, EVANS TAKES A LONG CHANCE...
THE SPRAY! GET THAT SPRAY IN THERE! HIT HIM WITH IT!

THE FLOOD OF REPELLENT DRIVES OFF THE RAVENOUS HORDE OF SHARKS. THEN...

A PLEDGE DELL COMIC TO PARENTS

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